

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0023] as follows:

[0023] Pursuant to aspects of the invention, at least one of the sealing surfaces is prepared to make the surface coarser or polished, as desired. As shown in ~~FIG. 4a~~ the figures, the two sealing surfaces of the container 10 (at least a portion of the first surface 15 and at least a portion of the third surface 17) and the two sealing surfaces of the cap 20 (at least a portion 30 of the first protrusion 24 and at least a portion 32 of one or all of the second protrusions 25) are prepared. In other embodiments not shown, only one of the sealing surfaces, two of the sealing surfaces, or any other combination, can be prepared. Roughening or coarsening the sealing surfaces allows for gas to flow into and/or out of the container assembly while still maintaining a sufficient seal. Otherwise, without coarsening, gas may not be able to flow into and/or out of the container assembly, which can cause, in the extreme, container imploding or bursting. For example, during transport of empty container assemblies, the container assemblies might be sealed and prevent gas flow into and/or out of the container assemblies. As a result, if the container assemblies are sealed at a low pressure (high altitude) and then transported to a high pressure (low altitude), the surface of the containers can deform and can potentially collapse or implode. Conversely, if the container assemblies are sealed at high pressure (low altitudes) and transported to low pressure (high altitudes), the container assemblies can bubble and can potentially burst. If the cap and/or the container seal surfaces are made coarse, however, gas may flow into and/or out of the container assembly, allowing for the pressure inside the container assembly to substantially equilibrate with the increased or lowered pressure, reducing the possibility of the deformations described above. Preferably, the sealing surfaces are sufficiently coarsened to allow for gas to flow into and/or out of the container assembly to prevent

81 deformation while still maintaining a sufficient seal to reduce or prevent undue exposure of materials within the container to the environment. Alternatively the sealing surfaces may be polished to provide a tighter seal for increased pressure or vacuum retention.

Please amend paragraph 0032 of the specification as follows:

82 [0032] For purposes of construing claims this application ~~related to this disclosure~~, the articles "a" or "an" shall be construed to mean both singular or plural, and the connector "or" shall be construed to mean in the conjunctive.

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith.